

MY VISION FOR OSUN STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, ESA-OKE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Let me start by thanking the Chairman and members of the Governing Council for their steadfastness in adherence to the provision of the College Edict which resulted in my appointment as the Acting Rector. I also want to express my profound gratitude to my immediate past Rector for his commitment to the progress of the College. I pray that God in His infinite mercy will reward your labour of love.

Permit me to say that I see my appointment as the Acting Rector as a call to service and a life time opportunity to further contribute my quota to the development of the College. Sirs, I want to say that I do not only have vision for the College, I also have passion to pursue the vision. Therefore, I am presenting the blueprint of my vision for OSUN STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, ESA-OKE (OSCOTECH) for the next one year, for your kind consideration and approval. This will be in three parts, with part one covering the general overview of OSCOTECH in the last five academic sessions. Part two is tagged “Quick Wins” and it will cover those activities that will be carried out within the first four months; while part three will present long-term developmental agenda.

2.0. AN OVERVIEW OF OSCOTECH, ESA-OKE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

The fortunes of OSCOTECH, like that of polytechnic education generally in Nigeria, have suffered serious decline in students’ enrolment. The case of OSCOTECH is particularly aggravated by the suspension of admission during the 2015/2016 academic session and the subsequent removal of our college name from Joint Admission and Matriculation Board brochure for 2016/2017 admission exercise. The table below is a graphic illustration of the College students’ enrolment from 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 academic session.

Table 1: Students’ Enrolment from 2011/2012 to 2015/2016

Academic Session	Students’ Enrollment			Total
	Regular	Daily Part-Time	Weekend Part-Time	
2012/2013	3,097	5,769	2,477	11,343
2013/2014	3,449	7,993	1,195	12,637
2014/2015	3,017	8,035	901	11,953
2015/2016	2,667	5,529	822	9,018
2016/2017	2,387	2,833	473	5,693

Source: Osun State College of Technology, Admissions Office.

The implication of the dwindling students’ enrolment is the drastic reduction in our revenue. This is now taking its toll on our finances. This unsavoury phenomenon is inevitably taking its toll on the finances of the institution. Similarly, the inability of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to mobilize the products of Daily Part-Time further reduces our students’ enrolment, to the extent that today, the HND Daily Part-Time programme is now extinct. Furthermore, the cancellation of Study Centres

outside the Campus has almost killed our Weekend Part-Time programme that is now having less than five hundred (500) students.

It is in the light of the above that conventional wisdom is no longer sufficient to manage the College successfully. We therefore must put up our thinking caps and think outside the box to explore non-conventional potential sources of revenue generation if we have to stay afloat as an institution.

Let me quickly mention here that the major ingredient required for Institutions to stay afloat is to clear the hurdles of accreditation. No institution is allowed to continue to exist without having its programmes accredited by the NBTE. This is where we need to give kudos to Engr. Dr. Oke-led management for scoring 100% in the twenty-four programmes that were presented for accreditation. We however should not rest on our oars as we have to tighten our belt in the remaining eight programmes that are still outstanding in the next four months. It is a task that must be vigorously pursued to ensure that this institution moves forward.

3.0. THE QUICK WINS

In view of the need for urgent steps to keep the College afloat, the following actions, aimed at re-branding the College and to attract more students and enhance our capacity to admit students, will be pursued. They include:

- (i) Making “OSCOTECH MOTTO” a caller tune for all Principal and Key Officers of the College.
- (ii) Composition of Media Management Committee (MMC) to manage publicity of the College and College activities.
- (iii) Introduction of Alternative Schools, consisting of:
 - (a) Open Distance Learning (ODL)
 - (b) On-line Programmes, particularly in the following programmes: Accountancy, Banking & Finance, Business Administration, Estate Management, and Maths & Statistics.
 - (c) Introduction of Short Certificates and Advanced Certificates courses. About eighty-three of such programmes have already been identified.
- (iv) Inauguration of ICT Steering Committee to develop and manage a comprehensive **Strategic ICT Master Plan** that will be deployed for Open Distance Learning, On-line Programmes and Learning Management System (LMS) as well as e-portal, e-payment, etc.
- (v) Organization of a National Workshop on BUILDING CAPACITY FOR APPLIED RESEARCH IN NIGERIAN POLYTECHNICS: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
- (vi) Establishment of Fund Raising Committee for the launching of **5billion naira Infrastructural Development Fund (IDF)**. Towards this, we will immediately establish contact with the following corporate organizations: CBN, PTDF, IITA, British Council, Israel Embassy, Leventist Foundation, MTN Foundation, First Bank Corporate Social Investments, African Development Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), USAID, Elumelu Foundation,

Dangote Foundation, Miccom Foundation, Segun Aina Foundation, among others.

- (vii) Creation of Alumni Relations Desk in the Office of the Rector to manage our relationship with members of our Alumni having anything to do with the College so as to encourage them to give back to the College anytime they are called upon.
- (viii) Launching of Alumni Association on zonal basis such as Lagos, Abuja, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Enugu, and in the diaspora.
- (ix) Launching a special programme to mobilize Alumni members to contribute towards the development of the College to be tagged “Donate at Least ₦5,000/\$500 to your Alma Mater”.

Details of each of these will be supplied when they are to be executed.

4.0. THE LONG-TERM AGENDA

The long range programmes will include series of activities that will ensure long lasting institutionalized activities that will enhance the image of the College and its ability to attract and admit more students. This will entail series of interconnected physical, economic, academic, research and social programmes tagged “PEARS”; meaning:

P – Physical Rejuvenation;

E – Economic Revitalization;

A – Academic Re-awakening;

R – Research Re-invigoration; and

S – Social Re-integration.

The details are as below:

- (i) **P- Physical Rejuvenation**, which will include general beautification of the College through proper landscaping, organized walkways and car-parking system:
 - Road paving through interlocking paving stones to be produced and laid by students of Building Technology and Civil Engineering Departments
 - Campus growth management through an approved master plan.
- (ii) **E- Economic Revitalization** through:
 - Expansion of scope of operation of OSCOTECH Ventures to cover confectioneries.
 - Joint Venture Eatery with established Eatery as partner.
 - Integrated Agricultural Venture – Poultry, Fishery, Maize and Cassava Cultivation, Feed Mill etc.
 - Training and consultancy Services
- (iii) **A- Academic Reawakening** through:
 - Openness in academic sponsorship based on identified critical areas of need of the College.
 - Introduction of College Scholars, to enable the College to sponsor students with Distinction in critical areas of need of the College.

- Introduction of new programmes that can leverage on existing personnel and facilities that may only require little addition to scale accreditation hurdles, e.g. Food Technology, Agricultural Engineering, Computer Engineering, Marketing, Purchasing and Supply, Insurance, Brewery Technology, Art and Design, among others.
 - Establishment of the Directorate of Academic Linkages, Collaborations and Partnerships to coordinate:
 - Academic linkages
 - Academic collaborations
 - Academic partnership
 - Academic staff/students exchange programme
 - Introduction of Public Lecture series such as:
 - Policy Dialogues
 - Public Engagement
 - Professional Discourse
 - Annual College Lecture
 - Inaugural Lecture, etc.
 - Workshops, Conferences, Seminars, etc.
- (iv) **R- Research Re-ignoration**, through emphasis on applied research with practical relevance to the Community, State and National Development.
 - Introduction of Annual Young Researchers Competition to stimulate and build capacity for research activities among young lecturers.
 - Appointment of Desk Officer for Research Grants Sourcing to access global research funds.
 - Encourage publication in High Impact Journals through the introduction of “Publication grants” that will be competitive to access.
 - Establishment of OSCOTECH Centre for Research, Innovation and Development (O’CRID), to enhance research fund sourcing, research networking, dissemination of research findings through conferences, seminars, workshops, floating of journals, Publication of Conference proceedings, and Book of Readings, etc.
- (v) **S- Social Re-integration**, through:
 - Ensuring an all inclusive administration
 - Regular interaction with staff, students and community
 - Enhancing the social welfare of staff through: Revolving Loans such as Vehicle Refurbishing Loan, Housing Loan, etc.
 - Motivation for Staff through the institutionalization of:
 - Recognition of the Staff of the Month in each Unit/Department.
 - Staff of the Year at the College Level, with Plaque and handsome prizes.
 - Building of a befitting Staff Club

- Encouraging Sports among both students and staff. Introduction of Annual Rector's Cup Competition for students.

5.0. CONCLUSION

Sir, in the 25 years history of the College, we have crawled, staggered and walked. In the last 5 years, we have particularly started running. The good news is that if this process is not hampered, we have by now gathered enough momentum to fly. However, you will agree with me that the smoothness of the take-off and landing of an airplane is, to a very large extent, dependent on both the expertise and experience of the pilot. Sir, under the tutelage of all Rectors in the College to date, and more importantly, the immediate past Rector, Engr. Dr. Augustus Oluyemi Oke, both the expertise and experience needed for a smooth take-off and a safe landing has already been guaranteed. Therefore, with your support and encouragement, OSCOTECH will soar to the high heavens.

God bless OSCOTECH,
God bless the State of Osun,
God bless Nigeria.

Thank you for listening.

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Ag. Rector